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13 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Subject: Meeting of SANACC Subcommittee on
Psychological Warfare

1. The SANACC Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare met at 1000 today in Mr. Block's office with the following members present:

Chairman - Mr. Ralph Block - State Department
Comdr. David Knoll - Navy Department
Col. Clyde Rich - Air Force

[REDACTED]

2. Mr. Block informed the Subcommittee that he and Mr. Oechsler were going to meet with Messrs. Sargent and Lahrman to discuss with these officials the proposal as to whether the State Department should take over the planning phases as well as current operations under NSC 4. Mr. Block further stated that he had been told that Mr. Sargent felt that the service departments were in favor of this proposal. Again I observed, as I did at the last meeting, that if the Department of State says "yes" to the suggestion our SANACC Subcommittee goes out of existence. At the previous occasion, Colonel Rich and Commander Knoll definitely disagreed with this viewpoint and stated that there are many echelons through which a question of this nature must go before a final decision is made, mentioning specifically SANACC, the NSC Working Group, the NSC Staff and the National Security Council itself. Today, Mr. Block was inclined to go along with the views expressed by Colonel Rich and Commander Knoll.

3. Mr. Block presented to the Subcommittee a draft of a memorandum which he is sending as Chairman of the Subcommittee to the Secretary of SANACC. The memorandum reads as follows:

"With reference to the information memorandum of 16 June 1948 (SANA-6126) you are herewith advised that the CIA representative on the SANACC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations has advised the Subcommittee that he has been directed to return to participate in the deliberations of the Subcommittee and has been present at each meeting beginning July 2, 1948."

After stating that he felt it should be a matter of record, Mr. Block asked my viewpoint on the memorandum. I observed that I felt that it was quite unimportant and hence it was immaterial whether or not he sent the memorandum. He is sending it.

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4. Mr. Block asked each of the members of the Subcommittee for their reactions to the proposed statement of "United States National Policy on Dissemination of Information to the World". After many varied comments were made and appropriate points noted by Mr. Block, Colonel [redacted] suggested that we should try to get at least an informal reaction from the Department of State as to whether "we are barking up the right tree" especially in view of the statements made by Mr. Behlen in his recent speech at Arizona. Mr. Block has already given a copy of the proposed policy statement to Mr. Sargent and the meeting adjourned with the feeling that Mr. Block would make every effort to secure an official, even though informal, State Department viewpoint on the paper that the Subcommittee is now working upon.

[redacted]

MEMBER, ICAPS

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